

Name: **Muddy Mountain Central WY-030-13N91W14-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No X Yes _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): _____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): _____

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **Muddy Mountain Central WY-030-13N91W14-2012** Acreage 8464.02

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒X_____ No _____

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is oddly shaped. The unit is bound on the north by BLM Road 3320, a.k.a. Muddy Mountain Road, as well as a state section. The unit is bound to the east by County Road 503, a.k.a. McCarty Canyon Road, as well as some private parcels. The unit is bound to the south and west by private land as well as state land.

See also **Muddy Mountain Outlier WY-030-13N90W15-2012.**

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include acreage, land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of the major human uses/activities)

The Muddy Mountain Central area under consideration is 8,464.02 acres of BLM public land. It is located within the following townships: 6th P.M., T. 13 N., R. 90 W., Sections 3-6, 8-11, 14-15, and 17-18; T. 13 N., R. 91 W., Sections 1-4, 11-15, and 22-23; and T. 14 N., R 91 W., Section 36. There is one private inholding which is located in T. 13 N., R. 91 W., Sections 11-13. The terrain consists mainly of drainages leading away from Muddy Mountain, such as White Rock Draw, Young Draw, Deep Creek, Trough Spring Draw, Coal Mine Draw, Hicox Draw, Eversole Draw, and Cottonwood Creek. The elevation ranges from 7,904 feet at the summit of Muddy Mountain, to 6,300 feet where Young Draw leaves the unit in T. 13 N., R. 91 W., Section 22. The dominant vegetation cover is sagebrush-grassland. The primary land use is for livestock grazing. Among range improvements, there are eight fences, two spring developments, one water pipeline, and 13 small ponds spread throughout the area. The area also contains a number of unimproved two-track trails accessible only by 4wd vehicles. The primary, dispersed recreational activities in the area are hunting and hiking.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 91.76 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 1-6. When hiking across the Muddy Mountain Central Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains two oil and gas wells throughout the Muddy Mountain Central Unit (see locations on unit map). These oil and gas installations within the unit represent permanent improvements and loss of primeval character. When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, both have been permanently abandoned. These two wells are unlikely to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer while hiking through the unit since one was reclaimed in 1980 and the other in 1963.

The Muddy Mountain Central Unit also contains 13 man-made reservoirs (see locations on large-scale aerial photo). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the 13 reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including 13 reservoirs, two springs, and two fences were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Muddy Mountain Central Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the

forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Muddy Mountain Central WY-030-13N91W14-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

X The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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